

NEW FOREST
RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

Annual Report

on

Vital Statistics and Sanitary Conditions

of the

New Forest Rural District

for the Year 1949

Submitted to the Rural District Council

by

GEORGE HABGOOD, M.A., M.B., B.Ch., D.P.H.

Medical Officer of Health to the New Forest Rural District Council

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NEW FOREST RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

MEDICAL OFFICER'S REPORT FOR 1949.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit for your consideration my Annual Report on the sanitary condition of the New Forest Rural District for the year ending December 31st, 1949.

STATISTICAL AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area (in acres)	94,957
Estimated Resident Population	41,480
Estimated number of inhabited houses	12,070
Rateable Value 1st April, 1950	£289,958
Sum represented by a penny rate (for the financial year ended March 31st, 1949) ...	£1145. 1. 5.

SOCIAL CONDITIONS INCLUDING THE CHIEF INDUSTRIES CARRIED ON IN THE AREA.

The largest area of the district is the ancient Crown Forest. Forestry is therefore an important industry and represents in many direct and indirect ways the occupations of the inhabitants inside the waterside parishes. There are also a considerable number of smallholders having Forest Rights, who are engaged in calf-rearing and pig-keeping. The areas bordering the Forest on the North, East and South are, except actually on the waterside, agricultural, whilst the waterside portions of the parishes of Eling, Marchwood, Dibden and Fawley are principally industrial, which includes timber works, tar distilling, flying-boat works, a large petroleum refinery and other light industries. These parishes are therefore mainly inhabited by industrial workers.

No occupation has had any adverse effect on public health so far as is known.

EXTRACTS OF VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR.

Live Births:				M.	F.	Total
Legitimate	...	...	...	395	342	737
Illegitimate	...	...	...	19	17	36
				<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
				414	359	773
				<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

Birth Rate: per 1,000 of the estimated resident population 18.63

Birth Rate for England and Wales.....16.75

Still Births:				M.	F.	Total
Legitimate	...	...	...	10	9	19
Illegitimate	...	...	...	0	1	1

Rate per 1,000 total (live and still births).....19.09

Deaths:				M.	F.	Total
				236	219	455

Death Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population 10.96

Death Rate for England and Wales.....11.70

Deaths from Puerperal causes:—

Puerperal Sepsis	...	...	...	...	...	0
Other Puerperal causes	...	...	...	...	...	2

Death Rate per 1,000 of live and still births.....2.50

Comparable Rate for England and Wales.....0.71

Infant Mortality:				M.	F.	Total
Deaths of infants under one year of age				11	12	23
Legitimate	...	...	...	10	12	
Illegitimate	...	...	...	1	0	

Death Rate of Infants under one year of age:

All infants per 1,000 live births.....29.75

Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births...29.44

Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births 27.77

Infantile Mortality rate for England and Wales.....32.00

The chief causes of death were:

Heart Diseases	...	...	...	...	...	131
Cancer of all sites	...	...	...	...	...	81
Intra Cranial vascular lesions	...	...	...	...	...	56
Pneumonia and Bronchitis	...	...	...	...	...	32
Congenital debility and premature births	...	...	...	...	...	20
Nephritis	...	...	...	...	...	13

No conditions of occupation or environment appear to have had a prejudicial effect upon health.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

Public Health Officers of the Authority:

- 1 Medical Officer of Health (part time).
- 1 Senior Sanitary Inspector.
- 1 Deputy Senior Sanitary Inspector.
- 2 Additional Sanitary Inspectors.

A moiety of the salaries of all Officers is received under the Public Health Acts and the Sanitary Officers devote the whole of their time to their duties.

Laboratory Facilities:

For chemical examinations at the Southampton Corporation Laboratory and bacteriological examinations at the Public Health Laboratories, Winchester and at Southampton.

A fee is charged by the Southampton Corporation. The Public Health Laboratories Service is directed by the Medical Research Council for the Ministry of Health and no fees are charged.

Ambulance Facilities:

Ambulance Stations in the area are sited as follows:—

- Avenue Road, Brockenhurst (B.R.C.S.).....Tel. 3319
- “Haral,” Ringwood Road, Totton.....Tel. 2120
- “Ynot,” Holbury Drove, Fawley (S.J.A.B.).....Tel. 217

Infectious cases (with the exception of smallpox cases for which special arrangements are made) are carried by both Brockenhurst and Totton ambulances.

The County Ambulance Service has other stations adjacent to the area at Christchurch, New Milton, Lymington, Romsey and Ringwood.

Nursing at Home:

A Domestic Home Help scheme is administered by the Local Health Authority.

Clinics and Treatment Centres:

These services are provided by the Local Health or Local Education Authority, the County Council:—

(a) Ante-Natal Clinics:

- Totton - Health Centre, Rumbridge Street - 1st and 3rd Monday at 2 p.m.
- Lymington - Parish Hall - 2nd and 4th Wednesday at 2 p.m.

(b) **Speech Clinics:**

Southampton - 18, Archers Road - Fridays 9.30 a.m.
and 1.30 p.m.

(c) **Child Welfare Centres:**

Boldre - Memorial Hall, Pillee.	2nd Thursday.
Bramshaw - Village Hall.	4th Wednesday.
Brockenhurst - Morant Hall.	1st & 3rd Tuesdays.
Copythorne - Foresters' Hall, Bartley.	1st & 3rd Thursdays.
Dibden Purlieu - Women's Institute.	2nd Tuesday.
East Boldre - Parish Hall.	1st Thursday.
Exbury - Women's Institute.	2nd Thursday.
Fawley - Methodist Hall.	1st & 3rd Mondays.
Hythe - St. John's Hall.	4th Tuesday.
Lyndhurst - Church Hall.	1st & 3rd Wednesdays.
Marchwood - Church Hall.	1st & 3rd Tuesdays.
Minstead - The Hut.	2nd Thursday.
Sway - Women's Institute.	2nd Tuesday.
Totton - Health Centre, Rumbridge Street.	Every Friday at 10 a.m. and 2 p.m.

(all centres commence at 2 p.m. except where other-
wise stated).

(d) **Day Nurseries:** Nil.

SCHOOL CLINICS.

- I. **Dental Clinics** (for school and pre-school children,
expectant and nursing mothers).
Held at various schools and centres as required.
Requests for special appointments should be sent to the
County Medical Officer.
- II. **Minor Ailments** (for school and pre-school children):
Totton - Health Centre, Rumbridge Street - every Tues-
day at 9.30 a.m.
Lymington - Parish Hall - every Tuesday at 9.30 a.m.
(children can attend these clinics without appoint-
ments).
- III. **Ophthalmic** (for school and pre-school children):
Held at Totton and Lymington. Attendance only by
appointment from the County Medical Officer.

IV. Orthopaedic Clinics:

Totton - Health Centre, Rumbridge Street.

Surgeon's Clinic - 3rd Tuesday, 2 p.m. odd months.

Remedial Clinic - Every Monday, 9.30 a.m. and Wednesday 9.30 a.m. and 1.30 p.m.

Cases from the New Forest Rural District are also dealt with at Lymington Remedial Clinic held at the Literary Institute on Thursday at 2 p.m.

V. Tuberculosis Clinics:

Totton - Health Centre, Rumbridge Street - Thursdays, 10 a.m.

Christchurch - Health Centre, Millhams Street - Mondays, 10 a.m.

VI. Maternity Accommodation:

Maternity accommodation is the responsibility of the Regional Hospital Board and beds are provided at:—

Hythe Cottage Hospital, Hythe. Fenwick Cottage Hospital, Lyndhurst. Hill Rise Maternity Home, Lyndhurst.

Applications for the admission of normal cases for social reasons should be made to the County Medical Officer. Arrangements for the admission of abnormal cases and those requiring institutional confinement on account of other medical conditions, should be made by the general practitioner obstetrician direct with the Institution concerned.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Water.

No. of samples of Water taken	Results of Exam.		Remedial Work Done			Remarks
	Fit	Unfit	Piped service installed	Wells improved and water made fit	Remain unfit	
75	33	42	32	6	6	Unfit wells are in hand.

The summer of 1949 was exceptionally dry and following a dry winter a number of wells and springs became low and in some cases failed entirely.

To meet these cases the Council with the co-operation of the Southampton Corporation erected standpipes as near to the affected areas as possible.

The principal areas in which shortages occurred were Minstead, Copythorne, Stoney Cross and Marchwood.

The scheme referred to in my previous reports for the extension of water mains in various parts of the district under guarantee agreement with the Southampton Corporation, was commenced during the year.

Of the total number of 12 extensions making up the scheme, 8 have been laid as follows:—

- I. Winsor Lane, Winsor,
involving 1,246 yds. of 4" main.
- II. Barrow Hill, Copythorne,
involving 996 yds. of 4" main.
- III. Ower Lane, Copythorne,
involving 1,409 yds. of 6" main.
- IV. Pound Lane, Colbury,
involving 901 yds. of 4" main.
- V. Chapel Lane, Marchwood,
involving 78 yds. of 4" main.
- VI. Bourne Road, Bartley,
involving 903 yds. of 4" main.
- VII. Bourne Lane, Bartley,
involving 277 yds. of 4" main.
- VIII. Eden Lane, Bartley, involving 539 yds. of 4" main.

Parts of the Bramshaw and Minstead scheme were also commenced by the Council and the following sections laid:—

- I. Cadnam Lane to Cadnam Green,
involving 1,500 yds. of 4" main.
- II. Stoney Cross, involving 100 yds. 4" main.
and 457 yds. 2½" main.

In addition to the foregoing, extensions were also laid by the statutory undertakers as follows:—

- I. West Road, Dibden Purlieu,
involving 72 yds. of 4" main.
- II. Tatchbury Lane, Netley Marsh,
involving 136 yds. of 4" main.
- III. Goldenhayes, Woodlands,
involving 188 yds. of 4" main.
- IV. Hazelgrove, Eling, involving 116 yds. of 4" main.

A total of 1,651 lineal yards of 4" mains were also laid to new Council Housing Sites.

It is anticipated that the scheme under guarantee agreement with the Southampton Corporation will be completed in 1950.

The district is supplied with water by two statutory undertakers - Southampton Corporation and the West Hampshire Water Co. The supply is constant and the quality satisfactory.

In certain areas outside the limits of supply of the statutory undertakers the Council have provided mains supplies, water being purchased in bulk from the Southampton Corporation.

Percentage number of Dwelling Houses in the district supplied from Public Water Mains.

Parish					Main Supply	Per-centage of houses connect- ed to Mains	Per-centage of houses with wells or other means of supply
Lyndhurst	...	...	...	...	Yes	99	1
Brockenhurst	...	...	...	...	Yes	99	1
Copythorne	...	...	...	...	Yes	60	40
Sway	...	...	...	...	Yes	91	9
Fawley	...	...	...	...	Yes	88	12
East Boldre	...	...	...	...	Yes	60	40
Dibden	...	...	...	...	Yes	89	11
Marchwood	...	...	...	...	Yes	85	15
Netley Marsh	...	...	...	...	Yes	61	39
Eling	...	...	...	...	Yes	99	1
Denny Lodge	...	...	...	...	Yes	2	98
					(parts only)		
Boldre	...	...	...	...	Yes	62	38
Minstead	...	...	...	...	Yes	5	95
					(parts only)		
Bramshaw	...	...	...	...	In course of laying	1	99
Beaulieu	...	...	...	...	Private Estate Supply	—	—
Exbury	...	...	...	...	Private Estate Supply	—	—
Rhinefield	...	...	...	...	Yes	60	40

These percentages do not include the hutments in military camps taken over by the Council for temporary housing purposes.

No waters are known to have any plumbo solvent action and there are no known cases of plumbism.

Action in respect of any form of contamination:

Constant effort has again been made to provide a piped water supply to those houses supplied by wells where a main supply is available. In areas where at present no main supply is available existing sources of supply found to be polluted, have, so far as practicable been made fit.

A total of 75 samples were taken for bacteriological examination from wells and other sources of supply, of which 42 were found to be polluted.

Despite the continued difficulty in acquiring galvanised tube, as a result of informal and formal action 32 houses were connected to a main supply. In addition to this number, and excluding new houses, 106 were also connected without resort to any action. These connections have been made mainly along the line of the new extensions, where in the majority of cases it was known as a result of examination of samples taken from the well supplies they were polluted or subject to intermittent pollution. 6 wells where no main supply was available were rendered fit.

The completion of the scheme beforementioned should result in a steady increase in the number of houses provided with a piped supply.

It can be said that very satisfactory progress has been made during the year. When the whole scheme is completed, approximately 90% to 95% of the properties in the district will have a piped water supply available, a most gratifying achievement.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

There have been no extensions of the existing sewers in the parishes of Brockenhurst, Lyndhurst and Eling. Work on the proposed main sewerage scheme for the parish of Dibden has been delayed for various reasons. It is hoped that a start will be made in 1950.

I would again mention the urgent and important necessity of a main drainage scheme for the parish of Fawley, where the acute problem of sewage disposal must inevitably be aggravated by the extensive industrial development now taking place.

An extension to the Lyndhurst Sewage Disposal Works was carried out during the year at a cost of £2,600.

New Council Housing Estates at Fawley, Netley Marsh and Marchwood have small sewage disposal plants.

A number of private dwellings have been permitted to connect to these systems.

Considerable attention has again been focussed on the connection of properties to the public sewers and conversion from conservancy to water carriage systems.

47 properties were connected to the public sewer and where no sewers were available 14 properties were provided with drainage and cesspit disposal and 3 with small disposal plants.

The total number of connections made to the public sewers during the year and for the previous five years is shown in the following table:—

1944	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949
23	63	66	73	78	75

These figures do not include new houses erected by the Council and private enterprise during the year of which the following were connected:—

Parish of Eling.....	76
Parish of Brockenhurst.....	20
Parish of Lyndhurst.....	10

Defective and insufficient drainage systems and sanitary accommodation have also received considerable attention and the following work completed:—

a. Defective drains repaired	...	...	...	18
b. Defective and insufficient sanitary accommodation dealt with	...	...	...	8
c. Sinks and sink waste drainage provided	...	...	...	23
d. Water service installed to existing water closets	...	...	...	3
e. Overflowing cesspits dealt with	...	...	...	12
f. Improvements and modifications of small sewage disposal plants	...	...	...	3

RIVERS AND STREAMS.

No action to check the pollution of rivers and streams has been taken during the year, except that in a number of cases where it has been found that sewage has been discharged into streams, the person responsible has been requested to abate the nuisance. A number of water courses have been cleansed.

PUBLIC CLEANSING.

There has been no appreciable change in the collection and disposal of refuse, domestic refuse being collected fortnightly and trade refuse weekly throughout the whole district.

The service is carried out with the Council's own plant and staff under the supervision of the Senior Sanitary Inspector.

Disposal of refuse is by controlled tipping at sites situate at Marchwood, Holbury, E. Boldre and Stoney Cross.

Six ten cubic yard Dennis side loading vehicles, an 8 h.p. Ford Van and 22 personnel are employed.

A new Dennis vehicle was delivered during the year to replace an obsolete vehicle.

A total of 51,395 miles were covered and 9,577 tons of refuse collected and disposed.

Litter Baskets:

Litter baskets are provided by the Council in areas popular with holidaymakers and also at bus stops and other places where they are required to prevent litter.

The contents are collected and disposed of as required by the refuse collecting staff.

COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL OF SALVAGE.

Salvage is collected from private dwellings at the same time as domestic refuse.

All salvage including that from business premises is collected and dealt with by the refuse collecting staff, there being no separate organisation to deal with this work.

The total amount of salvage collected and disposed of shows an increase in the quantity collected over 1948 by 30 tons but with a decrease of £132 in revenue, due to the supply position exceeding the demand, bringing with it a decrease in the price. Whilst it is known that a number of local authorities found difficulty in disposing of their waste paper, no such difficulty was met with in this district.

Salvage Collected and Disposed.

Articles	Tons.	Cwts.	Qtrs.	Lbs.	£	s.	d.
Waste Paper & Cardboard	216	14	1	17	1,090	4	3
Textiles	10	19	1	2	227	14	6
Scrap Metal	3	10	1	26	14	1	4
Totals	231	4	—	17	1,332	—	1
Board of Trade Allowance for increased paper collection over 1948	...	...	...	...	38	16	3
Total Income					£1,370	16	4

CESSPIT EMPTYING.

The Council undertakes the cleansing of cesspits free of direct charge at intervals of approximately, but not less than six months, by contract with the Hampshire Cleansing Co.

Emptying of cesspits on Council Housing Estates is carried out by the Council's own plant and staff under the supervision of the Engineer and Surveyor.

Under "Drainage and Sewerage" I referred to the urgent and important necessity of a main drainage scheme for the parish of Fawley and also the delay in the Dibden scheme. The provision of these services has an important reflection on the disposal of cesspit contents in these parishes, but more especially the parish of Fawley, where the present method of disposal is open to criticism and as suggested to the Council, it is considered that some form of control and systematic disposal is essential until such time as proper sewerage schemes are provided.

HOUSING.

Despite the progress in the Council's building programme there is no appreciable alleviation of unsatisfactory housing conditions. The effective outstanding demands for new houses is still very high as borne out by the number of applicants for Council houses which at the end of the year was 926. At the end of 1948 the number was 977, it will therefore be seen that although 215 houses were built during the year by the Council and private enterprise, there has been no substantial decrease in the number of applicants.

Of the total number of applicants approximately 350 families are living in sub-standard conditions in ex military camps and whilst the Council have done all possible to make these hutments habitable, this measure is only of a temporary nature and the conditions in the main require that these families should be rehoused with the minimum of delay. Of the remaining number it is estimated that approximately 500 families are living in overcrowded conditions or occupying unfit houses.

Without taking into consideration the balance between the number of families on the Council's application list living in unfit houses and the number of houses revealed by the Hobnouse Survey to be unfit and cannot be rendered fit, as distinct from those found to be unfit but capable of being made fit, the position in regard to satisfactory housing needs in the district presents a formidable programme for the provision of new houses.

So long as there remains such a substantial number of families requiring homes, it does not appear practicable to embark upon a programme of reconditioning under the Housing Act 1936 or of improvements other than by conversion and enlargement of houses or other buildings to provide additional accommodation as visualised in the Housing Act 1949. For some considerable time hence, with the present rate of progress it seems, emphasis must still be stressed upon the provision of new houses to meet the existing shortage and of replacing houses which are unfit for human habitation. With the object of making some progress in the latter, in co-operation with the Housing Department 5 individual unfit houses were represented and "Demolition Orders" made under the Acts. At the end of the year 3 had been demolished. All were in the parish of Fawley. In dealing with unsatisfactory house conditions in view of the housing situation, efforts have again been confined mainly to action under the Public Health Acts as advised by the Ministry of Health, with a view to obtaining the maximum amount of protection and comfort for the greatest number of families.

1.	Inspection of Dwelling Houses (other than Hobhouse Survey) :				
	(a)	Total number of dwelling houses inspected...	159		
	(b)	Number of inspections and visits made in connection therewith ...	638		
2.	Summary of defects remedied during the year:				
	(a)	Defective roofs repaired ...	41		
	(b)	Defective floors taken up and renewed or repaired ...	25		
	(c)	Dampness abated ...	28		
	(d)	Major items of disrepair remedied ...	45		
	(e)	Other items of disrepair ...	11		
a.	Number of Council Houses erected during year:				
	Parish of Eling ...	76			
	Parish of Brockenhurst ...	20			
	Parish of Fawley ...	60			
	Parish of Lyndhurst ...	10			
	Parish of Netley Marsh ...	10			
		<hr/>			
		176			
		<hr/>			
	Number erected 1948 ...	127			

b. **Number of Houses erected by Private enterprise:**

Parish of Eling ...	...	...	14
Parish of Dibden ...	...	...	4 (1 war destroyed)
Parish of Netley Marsh ...	...	...	2
Parish of Fawley ...	...	...	7
Parish of Minstead ...	...	...	2
Parish of Sway ...	...	...	3
Parish of Copythorne ...	...	...	2
Parish of Boldre ...	...	...	3
Parish of Beaulieu ...	...	...	2

Total ... 39

Number erected 1948 ... 12

Total number of houses built 1948 ... 139

Total number of houses built 1949 ... 215

Particulars of Houses owned by Local Authority:

Eling ...	...	...	...	...	313
Brockenhurst ...	...	...	...	...	72
Fawley ...	...	...	...	...	96
Lyndhurst ...	...	...	...	...	20
Netley Marsh ...	...	...	...	...	18
Marchwood ...	...	...	...	...	45
East Boldre ...	...	...	...	...	30
Boldre ...	...	...	...	...	40
Copythorne ...	...	...	...	...	30
Dibden ...	...	...	...	...	32
Sway ...	...	...	...	...	14

Total ... 710

Number of Families in Hutted accommodation:

Beaulieu Aerodrome ...	...	...	...	33 families
Hounslow Camp ...	...	...	...	28 „
Lime Kiln Lane Camp ...	...	...	...	25 „
Stoney Cross Aerodrome ...	...	...	...	137 „
Veals Farm Camp ...	...	...	...	14 „
Yew Tree Camp ...	...	...	...	23 „
Setley Plain Camp ...	...	...	...	88 „

Total ... 348

The number of gypsy families in huts were as follows:—

Stoney Cross ...	...	...	...	8
Lime Kiln Lane ...	...	...	...	3
Yew Tree ...	...	...	...	2

9 of these families are known to have come from Compounds.

RURAL HOUSING.

Ministry of Health Circular, 64/44.

In connection with the survey of working class dwellings called for by the Ministry of Health under circular 64/44 and recommended in the Hobhouse Report - 1345 premises were inspected during the year, giving a total of 8,320 since the beginning of the Survey in May, 1945.

Analysis of Houses Surveyed.

Parish of Beaulieu :

Category		1	2	3	4	5	Total
Group	A	—	—	—	—	—	—
	B	3	15	55	—	19	92
	C	8	19	60	—	17	104
Total		11	34	115	—	36	196

Parish of Boldre :

Category		1	2	3	4	5	Total
Group	A	—	—	—	—	—	—
	B	36	122	184	—	54	396
	C	—	—	16	—	9	25
Total		36	122	200	—	63	421

Parish of Bramshaw :

Category		1	2	3	4	5	Total
Group	A	—	—	—	—	—	—
	B	—	7	67	5	19	98
	C	—	2	21	—	5	28
Total		—	9	88	5	24	126

Parish of Brockenhurst :

Category		1	2	3	4	5	Total
Group	A	6	144	144	2	26	322
	B	1	13	19	5	8	46
	C	—	—	—	—	1	1
Total		7	157	163	7	35	369

Parish of Copythorne :

Category	1	2	3	4	5	Total
Group A	—	—	—	—	—	—
B	23	152	239	5	74	493
C	—	—	5	—	1	6
Total	23	152	244	5	75	499

Parish of Denny Lodge :

Category	1	2	3	4	5	Total
Group A	—	—	—	—	—	—
B	—	6	7	—	2	15
C	—	8	53	—	23	84
Total	—	14	60	—	25	99

Parish of Dibden :

Category	1	2	3	4	5	Total
Group A	—	—	—	—	—	—
B	39	158	300	2	68	567
C	—	5	5	—	2	12
Total	39	163	305	2	70	579

Parish of East Boldre :

Category	1	2	3	4	5	Total
Group A	—	—	—	—	—	—
B	2	44	98	—	49	193
C	—	1	—	—	6	7
Total	2	45	98	—	55	200

Parish of Eling :

Category	1	2	3	4	5	Total
Group A	311	2205	330	14	77	2937
B	20	137	34	2	9	202
C	—	1	4	—	3	8
Total	331	2343	368	16	89	3147

Parish of Exbury :

Category		1	2	3	4	5	Total
Group	A	—	—	—	—	—	—
	B	3	26	43	—	—	72
	C	—	1	6	—	2	9
Total		3	27	49	—	2	81

Parish of Fawley :

Category		1	2	3	4	5	Total
Group	A	—	—	—	—	—	—
	B	214	367	316	7	119	1023
	C	—	7	25	4	18	54
Total		214	374	341	11	137	1077

Parish of Lyndhurst :

Category		1	2	3	4	5	Total
Group	A	45	48	151	—	41	285
	B	2	26	53	—	12	93
	C	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total		47	74	204	—	53	378

Parish of Marchwood :

Category		1	2	3	4	5	Total
Group	A	—	—	—	—	—	—
	B	2	39	85	—	55	181
	C	—	—	—	—	1	1
Total		2	39	85	—	56	182

Parish of Minstead :

Category		1	2	3	4	5	Total
Group	A	—	—	—	—	—	—
	B	4	10	32	2	9	57
	C	3	12	21	—	20	56
Total		7	22	53	2	29	113

Parish of Netley Marsh :

Category		1	2	3	4	5	Total
Group	A	4	—	—	—	—	4
	B	17	125	189	2	38	371
	C	—	—	—	—	2	2
Total		21	125	189	2	40	377

Parish of Rhinefield :

Category		1	2	3	4	5	Total
Group	A	—	—	—	—	—	—
	B	—	9	9	—	—	18
	C	—	—	3	—	1	4
Total		—	9	12	—	1	22

Parish of Sway :

Category		1	2	3	4	5	Total
Group	A	—	—	—	—	—	—
	B	62	153	158	19	62	454
	C	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total		62	153	158	19	62	454

Category 5 Houses as percentage of Total.

Beaulieu	...	...	...	...	...	18.36%
Boldre	...	...	...	...	...	14.96%
Bramshaw	...	...	...	...	...	19.05%
Brockenhurst	...	...	...	...	...	9.5%
Copythorne	...	...	...	...	...	15.03%
Denny Lodge	...	...	...	...	...	25.25%
Dibden	...	...	...	...	...	12.09%
East Boldre	...	...	...	...	...	27.5%
Eling	...	...	...	...	...	2.82%
Exbury	...	...	...	...	...	2.5%
Fawley	...	...	...	...	...	12.72%
Lyndhurst	...	...	...	...	...	14.02%
Marchwood	...	...	...	...	...	30.7%
Minstead	...	...	...	...	...	25.7%
Netley Marsh	...	...	...	...	...	10.6%
Rhinefield	...	...	...	...	...	4.54%
Sway	.....	...	...	...	...	13.6%

Total number of category 5 houses as percentage of total number = 10.24%.

SWIMMING POOLS.

A small swimming pool attached to a private hotel was opened to the public during the very hot summer season. It was kept under observation and samples of water taken for bacteriological and chemical examination were unsatisfactory. The owner after consultation closed it to the public.

The swimming pool at The Girl Guides' Headquarters, Lyndhurst also came under observation as a result of an agreement between the Association and the County Education Authority allowing the children from the Bartley Modern Secondary School to use the pool during the season.

Samples of the water for bacteriological and chemical examinations were taken fortnightly or more frequently according to the number of bathers using the pool. As no purification plant is installed a system of hand chlorination was introduced and instructions given on the appropriate dosage.

Although a fairly good bacteriological standard was maintained, the organic matter became excessive on occasions due to the infrequency of water change. It was felt desirable that to obtain a minimum standard of purification for full immunity an appropriate plant, either full filtration and chlorination or circulation and chlorination should be installed.

In conjunction with the County Medical Officer the Association were approached on the provision of an appropriate plant.

After consideration of the cost, they were unable to afford anything like the expenditure required, in view of other pressing commitments. It was agreed therefore to continue the system of hand chlorination on an experimental basis.

At the end of the season, with the exception of intermittent excessive organic matter, the water conformed to a fairly satisfactory bacteriological standard.

MILK, DAIRIES AND COWSHEDS.

The Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949, which came into operation on October 1st, 1949 replaces the Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1926 to 1943.

Broadly speaking, the supervision of Milk Production on the farm has become the responsibility of the Minister of Agriculture and local authorities retain the duty of controlling distribution and sale. Medical Officers of Health have powers dealing with the risk of the spread of infectious diseases through milk.

Although local authorities cease to be responsible for the supervision of milk production on dairy farms, it is hoped that the closest co-operation will be maintained between the officers of the new service and officers employed by the local authority as the latter are still concerned with new buildings, water supply, sewage disposal and abatement of nuisances on farms.

It is understood that the new Ministry of Agriculture service is to be organised as a branch of the National Agricultural Advisory Service and that the procedure generally followed in the past by local authorities and their officers will be continued.

In view of the fact that the Ministry will have the advantage of being able to refuse or cancel registration where dairy farms are in such a condition that the Regulations cannot be complied with - as compared with automatic registration and absence of power of cancellation in the case of local authority administration in the past - it is felt that the new service is far better equipped to carry out its duties than were the officials of the local authority whose only weapons were faith, and the then existing "wide open" legislation.

Also on the 1st October, the Milk (Special Designation) Regulation, 1936 to 1948, were replaced by the Milk (Special Designation) (Raw Milk) Regulations 1949 and the Milk (Special Designation) (Pasteurised and Sterilised Milk) Regulations 1949.

For the time being the use of special designations in relation to milk, remains a voluntary act on the part of the persons concerned; in due course, however, when areas have been specified under the Milk (Special Designation) Act, 1949, the position will be radically altered inasmuch as the use of special designation in specified areas will be obligatory upon all who wish to sell milk by retail. I sincerely hope that the New Forest will be included in this category.

The recognition of the new grade "Sterilised Milk" is not altogether inspiring; in my opinion it is time there was a reduction and not an addition to the number of designations.

The report of the British Medical Association and National Veterinary Medical Association on "The Provision of Safe Milk of High Quality" recommends that there should be two designations only - Tuberculin Tested and Pasteurised. Until such time as all milk is both Tuberculin Tested and Pasteurised - I am in entire agreement, anything less cannot be accepted.

Up to the end of September, the number of registered dairy farms was 395. The number of retailers who were not producers was 19. 52 farms were licensed by the County

Council for the production of "Tuberculin Tested" Milk and 33 for the production of "Accredited Milk." The District Council issued the following licences:—

- 3 Dealers' licences for Tuberculin Tested Milk.
- 3 Dealers' licences for Pasteurised Milk.
- 1 Bottling licence for Tuberculin Tested Milk.
- 2 Supplementary licences to retail Tuberculin Tested Milk.
- 1 Supplementary licence to retail Pasteurised Milk.

In the future the Ministry will be responsible for the issue of all producers' licences for raw milk; so far as pasteurised and sterilised milk is concerned, "Food and Drugs" Authorities grant the necessary licences, except supplementary licences which are issued by local authorities.

37 samples of milk were taken in course of delivery. The results were as follows:—

Grade.	No. of Samples.	Satisfactory.	Unsatisfactory.
Pasteurised ...	15	15	—
Heat Treated (other than Pasteurised)	13	12	1
Tuberculin Tested	1	1	—
Accredited ...	4	2	2
Ungraded ...	4	1	3

5 "Churn Washing" tests were made and in each case the result was unsatisfactory.

It was found necessary to take action under Section 22 Food and Drugs Act 1938 with regard to the dirty and insanitary state of certain premises used for the bottling, storage and sale of milk. The occupier appeared before the Council and agreed to carry out the Council's requirements. He subsequently disposed of the business to the satisfaction of everyone concerned.

141 inspections were made and the following work completed:—

Construction of new cowsheds.....	2
Reconstruction and modernisation of existing cowsheds.....	6
Construction of new dairies.....	6
Reconstruction and modernisation of existing drains.....	4
New cowshed floors.....	1
New drainage system provided.....	5
Improved lighting and ventilation.....	4
Lime washing carried out on instructions.....	7
Other unclean conditions remedied.....	6
Mains water laid on.....	4
Existing wells improved.....	1

COMPLAINTS AND NUISANCES.

245 complaints were received and investigated during the year. The following had been dealt with at the end of the year:—

House defects.....	52
Defective sanitary fittings.....	11
Drainage defects.....	74
Insanitary accumulations.....	12
Nuisances from keeping of animals.....	6
House pests.....	9
Ditches and watercourses.....	13
Miscellaneous.....	33

Smoke Abatement:

19 smoke observations were made in the parish of Eling. No statutory action was found necessary and the improvement referred to in my last report has been maintained.

Tar Macadam Plant - Emission of Dust:

Since the installation of the plant outlined in my last report no complaints against this plant have been received during the year.

Tar Distillery:

Two complaints were received during the year. The cause was due to the necessity for having to revert to neutralising acid tar with lime owing to a breakdown of plant. Effective steps for the prevention of a similar occurrence has been taken up with the Company concerned. I think it only fair to say that the Company has on the whole maintained the improvement brought about in 1948.

The expected completion of the new fractionating plant has been delayed due to no fault of the Company, and it is not now expected to be in operation until mid 1950.

RATS AND MICE INFESTATION ORDER, 1943.

Under the direction of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, rodent control work is carried out by a staff of 2 who are engaged for the destruction of rats and mice on all land and property other than agricultural which is administered by the Hampshire Agricultural Executive Committee, Winchester. Infestations discovered or brought to the notice of the Council involving agricultural property are passed to their Pests Officer.

It has not been found possible to continue the “Block Control” system except on a minor scale, as the number of complaints received and the amount of work arising therefrom has kept the staff fully employed in dealing with them.

The continued charge for business premises based on the rateable value proves to be very satisfactory. Private property is treated without direct charge.

During the year a large number of “Major” infestations have been reported and found. Many of these have been cleared and others reduced to minor proportions. All major infestations will and have been given immediate attention where practicable, thereby avoiding as much as possible, other adjacent property becoming infested.

The annual 10% test baiting of the Public Sewers in compliance with the Ministry’s instructions have been carried out at Eling, Lyndhurst and Brockenhurst and found to be free of infestation.

53 business establishments of all trades have received treatment for either rats and/or mice, including Council owned or controlled property, and the cases of re-infestation within 6 months has been small.

391 complaints were received and 714 infestations were found and serviced during the year.

The total results obtained were as follows:—

No. of Premises Treated	No. of Dead Recovered		Approximate Kill	
	Rats	Mice	Rats	Mice
714	932	265	7639	4413

SCHOOLS.

In the district there are 26 schools under the control of the County Education Authority and also a number of private schools and kindergartens.

A number were inspected during the year.

At Brockenhurst, Lyndhurst, Totton, Emery Down and Colbury the school premises have water carriage systems connected to the public sewers. The Exbury, Hardley and South Baddesley schools have water carriage systems connected to their own disposal plants.

The remaining 14 schools rely on conservancy methods.

With the exception of Bramshaw and Minstead the schools have a piped water supply from the mains.

The majority of schools are now provided with canteen facilities. In those schools where no main drainage facilities are provided the problem of providing satisfactory alternative methods for the disposal of body wastes and of ablution and waste water is for many reasons most difficult.

At the latter end of the year the County Education Authority set up a Committee to consider this problem.

Observations for the improvement in sanitation of the schools concerned in this district were conveyed to the County Medical Officer.

The water supply at the Bramshaw school is subject to intermittent contamination and it has been suggested to the County Medical Officer that a simple operating and efficient filter, such as a "metafilter" should be provided for purification, until such time as the projected main water supply is available.

As a precaution, the County Medical Officer closed one of the schools in the Fawley area where there was an outbreak of Poliomyelitis.

TENTS, VANS AND SHEDS.

109 inspections were made for the purposes of control of movable dwellings and camping sites.

5 new licences to erect or station and use movable dwellings were granted and 7 existing licences were renewed.

It was not found necessary to take any statutory action. It would be untrue to say that no faults were found but in the majority of cases they were of a minor nature and were soon corrected by the persons concerned; satisfactory disposal of waste water seemed to be the main difficulty.

There is no denying the fact that the number of "movable dwellings" is increasing and will continue to do so until there are sufficient houses to fulfil the needs of the population. My interest in this much discussed problem is from a public health angle only, but it is most essential for everyone concerned to guard against the possibility of the assorted movable dwellings in existence today becoming the slums and black spots of the future.

MEAT AND FOOD INSPECTION.

Number of inspections.....207

The 12 registered and 5 licensed slaughter houses in the district, still remain closed under the Defence Regulations. They have not been used for a considerable number of years and in many cases disuse has not improved them. If ever the time should arrive when private slaughtering is again permitted the occupiers will be faced with numerous difficult problems. It is very questionable whether the nature and position of the existing buildings would satisfy the high standard which no doubt will be required.

The following foodstuffs were found to be unfit for human consumption:—

962 lbs Imported Beef.....	Bone Taint - Decomposition.
958 lbs Home Killed Beef.....	„ „ - Bruising.
38 lbs Imported Beef.....	Muscular Fibrosis.
1 Sheep's Liver.....	Distomatosis.
42 Tins Corned Beef.....	Decomposition.
39 Tins Corned Mutton.....	„
16 Various Meat Products.....	„
3½ lbs Chitterling Mould.....	Excessive Mould.
132 lbs Bacon.....	Decomposition.
28 lbs Cheese.....	Excessive Mould.
36 lbs Sausages and Sausage Meat.....	Decomposition.
12 Pork Pies.....	Decomposition and Fouled by Rats and Mice.
31 lbs Butter.....	Rancidity.
39 lbs Flour.....	Contaminated by Mice.
47 lbs Bread.....	Contaminated.
24 Imported Rabbits.....	Decomposition.
4½ Bags Sausage Rusk.....	Contaminated by Disinfectant.
21 Tins Fruit.....	Decomposition.
80 Tins Vegetables.....	„
114 Tins Milk.....	„
13 Tins Jam, Soup, etc.....	„
57 Tins Fish Products.....	„
7½ lbs Soya Flour.....	Sour.
14 Pkts. Chocolate.....	Contaminated by Mice.
25 lbs Dates.....	„ „ „
4½ lbs Semolina.....	„ „ „
12 lbs Prunes.....	„ „ „
68 lbs Sugar.....	Contaminated by Disinfectant.

All condemned foodstuffs, other than those required to be returned to the wholesalers, were collected and disposed of for animal feeding at public institutions.

FOOD AND DRUGS.

Not one complaint was received concerning the food premises in the district. It does not mean that all the establishments selling, storing or manufacturing food are beyond reproach - we are far from reaching that utopian position - but it does mean that in more cases the surface is polished; the general public have little opportunities of getting beyond the counter or into the kitchen or factory, but I feel sure that if they did it would do more good than all the official visits.

Many of our small cafes and restaurants were never designed or intended for the purpose for which they are now being used and it is quite common for food to be prepared and cooked and the "washing up" done in a room too small for the job. The "double sink" is not used nearly as much as it should be, one of the reasons being that there is insufficient room - a minimum requirement for all utensils should be adequate washing with really hot water and a good detergent, followed by rinsing in running clean hot water - self drying in air is preferable to wiping with dirty cloths. Further comment on the inspection of food premises is contained under "Food poisoning outbreaks," page 31.

108 inspections were made during the year and the following work completed.

Provision of new water heaters.....	8
Improved storage and disposal of refuse.....	2
New food storage accommodation.....	3
Walls renovated and redecorated.....	7
Ceilings.....	5
Floors repaired or relaid.....	3
New or improved sanitary accommodation.....	6
Improved lighting and ventilation.....	2
Offensive accumulations removed.....	2
New drainage systems constructed.....	1
New sinks provided.....	5
Earth Closets converted to Water Closets.....	1
Removal of sanitary conveniences entering directly into food rooms.....	2

During the early part of the year it was noticed that groups of gipsies were taking watercress from forest streams

known to be contaminated, and selling it for human consumption to various shop keepers in the district.

Numerous visits were made to the gipsy encampments and to premises known to be selling watercress, with a view to checking and tracing the source of supply. Despite bland denials from the gipsies it was proved that they were indeed pursuing a very profitable but doubtful and dangerous "side line."

Acting in co-operation with the Forestry Commission every known source of supply was investigated and samples of the cress together with the water in which it was growing were taken and submitted for examination. In each case the beds were found to be contaminated and whilst no pathogenic organisms were isolated, the presence of other organisms rendered the plants unfit for human consumption.

The Forestry Commission cleared away all the existing watercress and promised to keep it under strict observation in the future. Warning notices were posted in the streams and all greengrocers in the district were circularised drawing their attention to the potential danger to public health from selling watercress other than of "known origin" and purchased through the normal and proper trade channels.

I know that a large number of people are very fond of watercress and emphasise the need for every vendor to obtain his supplies only from properly cultivated beds where every precaution is taken to make sure that the watercress is sold fit for human consumption in every way.

Ice Cream:

53 premises are registered for the sale of ice cream, an increase of 27 over the number in the register last year. 3 premises are registered for purposes of manufacture or sale.

During the season 192 inspections were made and 117 samples taken and submitted for examination by the methylene blue reduction test as recommended by the Ministry of Health.

The samples were graded as follows:—

Grade I	...	...	69
Grade II	...	...	19
Grade III	...	...	19
Grade IV	...	...	7
Ungraded	...	...	3

In each case the results of the tests were sent to the manufacturers and where grades 3 and 4 were indicated, copies of

the reports were sent to the authorities concerned. This procedure was appreciated and repeat sampling invariably showed that efforts had been made to improve the grade.

19 samples were submitted for chemical examination; fat content varied from 3.1% to 10.5%.

It was not found necessary to take any drastic action, in spite of the fact that the increase in the number of registered premises was over 100%. By far the greater volume of the ice cream is sold in a pre-packed form which greatly lessens the possibility of contamination especially when the commodity is manufactured and packed by a reputable firm.

I am not at all happy about the week-end invasion of the forest and waterside areas by numerous itinerant vendors - there is very little control over them, they are not required to be registered, unless they manufacture or store, and it has not been found practical to take samples because there are no laboratory facilities during the week-end and we have no means of holding the samples.

Licensed Premises:

No complaints have been received regarding licensed premises in the area.

Sanitary accommodation, although rather primitive in some cases, appear to have been kept as clean as possible. Approach to the various owners, where unsatisfactory conditions were found, resulted in considerable improvements, whilst plans have been submitted for further improvements.

The detergent and glass cloth position has become more satisfactory and there is now no excuse for dirty glasses. Here again I should like to see the "two sink" method in use in every bar.

FACTORIES.

Premises	No. in Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted.
Factories with mechanical power	123	28	6	—
Factories without mechanical power ...	36	17	4	—
Total	159	45	10	—

Cases in which defects were found :

Particulars	Number of Defects				Defects entailing Prose- cution
	Found	Rem- edied	Referred to H.M. Inspector	Referred by H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness	2	2	—	—	—
Overcrowding	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate Ventilation	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective Drainage of floors	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences :					
Insufficient	3	2	—	—	—
Unsuitable or defective	6	3	—	—	—
Not separate for sexes	—	—	—	—	—
Lack of wholesome water supply	—	—	—	—	—
Other Offences	—	—	—	—	—
Total	11	7	—	—	—

11 Outworkers were employed in the district during the year.

Summary of Inspections.

Nature of Inspections	No. made
Infectious Diseases	239
Nuisances	663
Water Supply	318
Housing	2083
Food & Drugs Act (Food Preparing Premises, etc.) ...	300
Inspection of Food	198
Factories and Workshops	45
Refuse Collection and Disposal	164
Verminous Premises	8
Moveable Dwellings and Camp Sites	109
Smoke Abatement	19
Rats and Mice	3579
Schools	13
Swimming Pools	15
Miscellaneous	45
Samples—	
Water	75
Ice Cream	117
Milk	37
Swimming Bath Water	11
Specimens—	
In connection with investigation of infectious diseases	45
Total	8083

THE PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

Notifiable Cases (other than Tuberculosis) notified during the year:—

Disease.	Total Cases Notified.	Cases admitted to Hospital.	Total Deaths.
Measles	614	—	—
Whooping Cough ...	71	—	—
Pneumonia	10	—	12
Cerebro Spinal Fever ...	1	1	1
Acute Poliomyelitis ...	24	24	2
Scarlet Fever	14	—	—
Erysipelas	5	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia ...	5	—	—
Food Poisoning	15	1	—
Totals ...	759	26	15

Measles were prevalent from the beginning of the year until the end of May.

Whooping cough was notified in small numbers from the beginning of the year up till the end of September.

A sudden outbreak of acute Poliomyelitis occurred during July, the first cases being on July 11th and the last case on September 5th, the largest number of cases being in the parish of Fawley. In all 24 cases were notified of whom 2 died. In this outbreak there was no evidence that recent immunisation against Diphtheria had had any effect on the incidence of the disease. A thorough and exhaustive investigation and survey of the outbreak was carried out and forwarded to the Ministry of Health. There was no conclusive evidence to suggest the source of the infection, but a number of factors came to light as to the mode of transmission.

One case of Cerebro Spinal Fever was notified. The child aged $1\frac{2}{12}$ died.

It is pleasing to note that for the second year running no cases of Diphtheria have been notified.

Food Poisoning Outbreaks:

During the year 15 cases of food poisoning were notified and the causal organisms and causative agents were identified as follows:—

a. Outbreaks due to Identified Agents.

Total outbreak 2. Total cases 6.

Outbreaks due to:—

- a. *Salmonella Typhi Murium*.
- b. *Staphylococci*.

b. **Outbreaks of Undiscovered cause.**

Total outbreak 1. Total cases 7.

c. **Single cases.**

Total cases 2.

Agent identified - a. *Staphylococci*
b. *Salmonella Typhi Murium*.

Extensive field investigations were made in each case and there was no spread of the infection.

Evidence supported by bacteriological examination suggests that the foods responsible were *a*. Pork sausages, *b*. Sardines, *c*. Tinned Kipperred Herrings.

Every effort is made to prevent the occurrence of food contamination by making systematic and routine inspection of all food premises and establishing personal contact with employers and employees on all aspects of hygiene in relation to the handling of food.

During the year a total of 300 inspections of food premises including cafes, restaurants, canteens and ice cream premises were made.

Appropriate literature in pamphlet form was distributed and posters issued for display in suitable places.

It can be said that improvement has manifested itself in divers ways, but as previously mentioned we are still far from reaching that desirable standard of hygiene in relation to food handling generally. In respect to premises used for manufacture, sale or storage of any food, it is still thought they should be subject to registration by Local Authorities with similar powers in regard to revocation as provided in the new Milk and Dairies Regulations 1949.

IMMUNISATION AGAINST DIPHTHERIA.

This work has been continued during the year and the percentage immunised appears to be good.

Statistical Details :

Number of children at 31st December, 1949 who had completed a course of Immunisation at any time before that date (i.e., at any time since 1st January, 1934).

	Under 1	1	2	3	4	5 to 9	10 to 14	Total Under 15
Age at 31/12/49 i.e. born in year	1949	1948	1947	1946	1945	1940- 1944	1936- 1939	
N'ber Immunised	61	543	694	650	575	2,963	2,241	7,727

Estimated mid-year Child Population 1949:	Children under 5:	Children 5-14:
	3,696	6,063

Percentage of children immunised under five - 68.2%.
Percentage of children immunised five to fifteen - 85.7%.

TUBERCULOSIS.

New Cases and Mortality during 1949.

Age Periods.			New Cases.				Deaths.			
			Respiratory.		Non- Respiratory.		Respiratory.		Non- Respiratory.	
			M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0	...	...	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
1	...	...	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—
5	...	...	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
15	...	...	4	3	1	—	—	1	—	—
25	...	...	3	1	—	—	—	—	1	—
35	...	...	2	4	—	—	—	1	—	—
45	...	...	3	1	—	—	3	2	—	—
55	...	...	1	1	—	—	2	1	—	—
65 and upwards			1	1	—	—	2	1	—	—
Totals	...		14	12	3	1	7	6	1	1

The number of cases notified during the year shows a decrease of 6 over 1948.

I have the honour to be, Ladies and Gentlemen,
Your obedient servant,
G. HABGOOD,
Medical Officer of Health.

